

the local ambulance board. Bob has also devoted much of his time to the young people of Malheur County as a 4-H leader. He further shares both his love of flying and his Cessna 182 to provide transportation for search and rescue personnel. I am proud to call Bob Skinner, Jr. my good friend and appreciate the opportunity to share his accomplishments over his long and distinguished career as an Oregon cattle rancher. The cattle industry and future generations of farmers and ranchers will continue to benefit from Bob's dedication and willingness to go the extra mile on their behalf.

I would be remiss if I failed to note Bob's remarkable family and all that they mean to him. Bob's father, Bob Skinner, Sr. is an equally impressive man. He resides in Jordan Valley, too, and has a distinguished leadership background similar to his son's. Bob Sr. was a former national committee member of the Public Lands Council and a Past President of Oregon Cattlemen's Association. I am fortunate to call Bob Sr. and his wonderful wife Sara my good friends. Bob Jr.'s wife, Karen, is likewise deserving of considerable praise. She is Bob's partner in success and travels great distances to dedicate herself to her community and industry. Together Bob and Karen have raised four children, Robbin, Kimberly, Silas, and Michael, who have given the Skinners six beloved grandchildren, Nicholas, Kirk and Birch, Kasen, Regann, and Kort. In the summer of 2002, I had the privilege of spending the night in Jordan Valley with the entire family and had a wonderful time getting to know the extended Skinner clan. Together they truly exemplify the dedicated, hard-working and fun-loving American family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this extraordinary man and great American, Bob Skinner, Jr. I would like to thank Bob personally for all he has done for the people of Malheur County, the Second District, and the State of Oregon—especially those Westerners who make their living off the land. I wish Bob, his wife Karen and their entire family all the best in future endeavors.

GOODS MOVEMENT PROJECTS OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE (H.R. 3398)

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I recently introduced. The Goods Movement Projects of National Economic Significance is legislation that addresses some of our Nation's most pressing transportation and economic needs.

This is the problem:

How freight moves through our communities is an important issue with far reaching implications. Goods movement is the driving force of our Nation's economy. This is a State issue, a Federal issue and it is an issue that directly affects the communities in which we live.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, \$7.4 trillion in goods were moved on the Nation's highway system in 1998, directly employing 10 million people. In 2000, \$706 billion in international merchandise trade flowed

through U.S. seaports and \$646 billion was handled by our railroads.

The volume of goods is projected to grow nationally by 67 percent over the next two decades. This tremendous growth in international trade will continue to place an increasingly heavy burden on our Nation's seaports, trade corridors, highways and rail lines. Traffic congestion, delays, accidents, and freight transportation costs have increased as a result. On a human level—our citizens are spending more and more time stuck in traffic instead of at home with their families.

This is the history:

Over the past 30 years our population has grown, our international trade has increased and our congestion has worsened. For example, in 1970, trade was 12 percent of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). Today, it is over 25 percent. Since 1970 the population of the U.S. has grown by 40 percent. At the same time, the number of registered vehicles has increased by 100 percent while our road capacity has increased by only 6 percent!

By the year 2020, shipment of containerized cargo moving in and out of the U.S. will increase by more than 350 percent.

By the year 2020, total domestic tonnage of freight carried by all U.S. freight systems will increase by at least 67 percent and international trade will increase by nearly 100 percent.

The transportation reauthorization bill is the perfect opportunity for us to address these pressing transportation infrastructure needs. TEA-21 began to address Goods Movement issues with the creation of the Borders and Corridors Program. But we need to take this need further during this reauthorization bill.

Funding for the Borders and Corridors program was far from adequate. This new legislation encourages communities and regions to develop comprehensive programs and plans that address the goods movement issues of our transportation infrastructure.

This legislation recognizes that we must have a dedicated source of funding to ensure that goods movement and projects of economic significance can be built and that these projects contribute to the overall efficiency of the national transportation infrastructure. As we continue the dialog of reauthorizing the transportation bill, the Goods Movement Projects of National Economic Significance needs to be a part of that conversation.

This is what we must do:

Goods Movement Projects of National Economic Significance will do the following: It will provide \$3 billion per year to a Goods Movement Program.

This legislation separates the Borders and Corridors Program and creates one strong Corridor and Gateway Program. Corridor projects represented 95 percent of the project requests for the Borders and Corridors program.

My legislation focuses our resources on projects and initiatives that promote the safe, secure and efficient mobility of goods and on the immediate and long-term needs of our transportation infrastructure.

This legislation combines and enhances elements of two highly successful transportation programs. This program uses the criteria from the Corridors program and combines it with the fiscal responsibility of the full funding grant agreement of the transit New Starts Program.

Specifically, this program provides \$1.5 billion a year, \$9 billion over the life of the reau-

thorization bill for local communities, States and the Federal Government to plan and build Goods Movement projects. These projects will ultimately enhance local, regional, and State economies, and of course, the national economy.

Finally, \$1.5 billion a year or \$9 billion over the life of the reauthorization bill will be dedicated to funding projects of National Economic Significance.

Throughout the country there are national bottlenecks that congest our communities and slow our national economy down. As we all know from experience, if there is a bottleneck on the highway, traffic several miles away can be affected.

If the type of gridlock that I just described happens and goes unchecked, it will affect an entire region and the entire country and ultimately our economy and the livability of our communities.

These are projects located throughout the country that are "ready to go" major investments in the national transportation infrastructure. By funding these projects we will be stimulating the national economy while investing in the long-term health of our national transportation infrastructure.

This legislation, like the entire transportation reauthorization bill, is an economic stimulus package. For every billion dollars invested in public transportation infrastructure, 47,000 jobs are created.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support this legislation as part of the transportation reauthorization bill. Join me and support The Goods Movement Projects of National Economic Significance.

CRUSADE 4 CHARACTER: CHARACTER FIRST IN HAMBURG

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, this evening in my hometown of Hamburg, NY representatives of all facets of the community will gather to conduct a "Town Meeting" to discuss the progress and future of Character First in Hamburg.

Character First in Hamburg is made up of numerous community leaders, who over the past two years, have put into place activities in support of good character throughout the town with a mission to create a culture of character in Hamburg.

I had hoped to participate as a keynote speaker for this community update where, along with defensive back and special teams player Coy Wire of the Buffalo Bills and Character First President Suzanne McKenney, concerned residents will hear the results of two years of Character First and highlights of the culture of character gaining momentum in the community.

Suzanne McKenney has been tireless in her extensive efforts over the last two years to bring Character initiatives to the business community, civic community, education community, faith community, government community and media community. Working with a well established Board of Directors and Committee Chairs there is a true emphasis upon creating a culture of character in Hamburg.

Coy Wire is an outstanding example to the Hamburg community. His Coy Wire Foundation has been established to promote education and character building with initiatives that encourage spiritual awareness. Coy has shown by example the positive and uplifting impact of an individual's emphasis on character.

Tonight's Town Meeting theme, Crusade 4 Character, underscores the assembled community's belief that the concept of good character has gained widespread support throughout the town.

There literally are signs of character everywhere in the Town of Hamburg. My good friend and restaurateur Mike DiPaolo has initiated character recognition awards for his employees at Illo DiPaolo's restaurant; Our local community newspaper The Sun has shared these employees' stories and other examples of character with the community. Places of worship throughout Hamburg have promoted character traits on bulletin boards, bulletins and newsletters. Character displays have been placed throughout school buildings and there have been dedicated efforts by students and teachers to recognize good character traits. There has been local government support by resolution in the Town of Hamburg and the Villages of Blasdell and Hamburg. The Hamburg Town Board has initiated character recognition at public meetings and last but not least the Civic Community has generated volunteers to assist in the coordination of character initiatives throughout the community.

These are but a few of the many community wide efforts to encourage residents of Hamburg to embrace good character.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the founders and supporters of Character First as they examine their past and look toward the future. I would encourage my colleagues to raise the awareness of good character in their community. Our nation will only grow stronger when individual citizens embrace character within their own lives.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN OLDER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen Older, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Stephen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the six years Stephen has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. Stephen is also a Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Stephen designed, implemented, and installed a stone retaining wall at the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church. He oversaw almost forty scouts and adults during the month long project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephen Older for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

VETERANS DAY 2003

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, the freedom we enjoy has faced serious threats time and time again. But because our courageous military personnel were willing to go into battle and risk all they had, our independence and our liberties have remained strongly intact for over 200 years.

It is crucial that we take time to pay tribute to those responsible for our freedoms and I am proud to stand on the House floor today—as Veterans Day draws close—to recognize America's 25 million living veterans and their fallen brothers and sisters.

In Congress, I am honored to serve over 61,000 military veterans from California's 53rd Congressional District. It is truly a privilege to represent so many of America's greatest heroes and to spend so much time working on their behalf.

As I meet with my veterans, I am always amazed with their stories and to learn about their heroics on the battlefield.

Just last month, I heard from a constituent, who as a young man, enlisted in the Army in 1941 and was immediately sent to the South Pacific to fight the Japanese in World War II.

His name is Chief Warrant Officer Michael Campbell, and now 86 years old, he lives in San Diego with his wife, Priscilla. Mr. Campbell's experiences illustrate what millions of our veterans had to endure when they were sent to war.

The Army deployed him to a region where the fighting was extremely intense and the Japanese inflicted severe casualties on our soldiers and took many as prisoners.

Warrant Officer Campbell fought courageously as both a rifleman and a machine gunner in the Philippines, but in 1942, his unit was captured and he too was taken as a Prisoner of War.

This brave young soldier spent the next three years in the harshest conditions you can imagine. He was transferred to several different internment camps and was forced to perform slave labor in a steel mill building supplies for the Japanese Army along side hundreds of other allied soldiers.

By the time the war had come to an end and he was liberated, Warrant Officer Campbell felt lucky to have his life. Hundreds of his brothers who were taken prisoner starved to death or died from other causes.

It took several weeks of medical care in a San Francisco military hospital before Mr. Campbell could recover from what he had experienced.

However—despite what he had endured—this courageous young man quickly reenlisted in the Army and dedicated another 30 years to his Nation. He said he did this because he loved the military and loved serving his country.

It is this kind of amazing resolve that has defeated our enemies and has kept the United States strong. I am pleased for the opportunity to thank Warrant Officer Campbell and his fellow veterans for dedicating their lives to protect our freedoms and our liberties.

Now that we are about to observe another Veterans Day, I ask my colleagues to seriously consider what we owe to them. Are we repaying the debt?

Mr./Madam Speaker, I strongly believe we could improve our treatment of our greatest heroes.

Just recently, we have had the opportunity to increase funding for Veterans' Affairs health care. Unfortunately, though veterans nationwide expressed their strong support, we failed to provide VA health care with the increase it needs. We all know in this body that the health care system veterans rely upon will go under funded in 2004 because we did not act properly.

We currently have another opportunity before us, Mr./Madam Speaker, to end what has come to be known as the Disabled Veterans Tax. I remain hopeful that during the 108th Congress, we can pass strong concurrent receipt legislation and provide the veterans who have made the most unimaginable sacrifices with both the disability and retirement payments they earned and deserve.

I am afraid that any proposal that provides concurrent payments to only a small portion of veterans is not good enough. I ask my colleagues to speak directly to their veterans about this issue and let them decide what kind of legislation will be fair for their brothers and sisters.

Finally, Mr./Madam Speaker, I would just like to take a moment to reiterate my dedication to our Nation's retired military personnel. We can never take for granted the sacrifices our brave men and women in uniform have made on our behalf.

HONORING DALE K. OUZTS FOR
HIS CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Dale K. Ouzts for a legacy of distinguished service to The Ohio State University and the people of Ohio. Dale is retiring after 24 years at Ohio State, including 23 as General Manager of the WOSU Stations and Director of The Ohio State University Telecommunication Center. His hard work, enthusiasm, and leadership have contributed immensely to the quality of life in Central Ohio.

Dale's accomplishments place him high atop the list of Who's Who in public broadcasting. Notable undertakings during his long career include the Chairmanship of the Board of Directors of National Public Radio, a position as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of KPTS-TV in Wichita, Kansas, a lecturer at the Beijing Broadcasting Institute in Beijing, China, and a consultant for the U.S. Information Agency to help Romanian broadcasters transition to Capitalism.

Perhaps more impressive than Dale's lengthy résumé of achievements is the impact his hard work and service have had in our